

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A tibial knee ~~An~~ implant for replacing a portion of the proximal tibial surface of a knee joint, the tibial knee implant being engageable with a femoral knee implant, the tibial knee ~~opposed articulating bone ends adjacent a skeletal joint, the~~ implant comprising:

a first articular bearing component;

a second articular bearing component, the first and second articular bearing components

comprising a first component to replace a portion of one of the opposed

articulating bone ends; a second component to replace a portion of the other of the

opposed articulating bone ends, the second component having means for low

friction articulation with the first component and means for engaging the first

component to constrain the motion between the first and second components, the

means for low friction articulation including a first material exhibiting low wear

and having a predetermined toughness value;

an intercondylar component including an upwardly projecting intercondylar post

engageable with the femoral knee implant to constrain the amount of relative

motion permitted between the femoral and tibial knee implants, the intercondylar

component comprising, and the means for engaging including a second material

having a predetermined toughness value greater than the first material higher than

the means for low friction articulation; and

at least one pin, the first articular bearing component, the second articular bearing component, and the intercondylar component being joined together by the pin extending into each of the components.

2. (original) The implant of claim 1 wherein the first and second materials comprise polymers.
3. (original) The implant of claim 2 wherein the first material comprises crosslinked polyethylene and the second material comprises uncrosslinked polyethylene.
4. (original) The implant of claim 1 wherein the first material comprises relatively highly crosslinked polyethylene and the second material comprises relatively lightly crosslinked polyethylene.
5. (original) The implant of claim 1 wherein the first and second materials are different materials selected from the same class of materials.
6. (original) The implant of claim 5 wherein the first material comprises polyethylene and the second material comprises a poly(ketone).
7. (original) The implant of claim 1 wherein the first and second materials are selected from different classes of materials.
8. (original) The implant of claim 7 wherein the first material comprises a polymer and the second material comprises a metal.
9. (original) The implant of claim 7 wherein the first material comprises a ceramic and the second material comprises a polymer.
10. (canceled)
11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The tibial knee implant of claim 1 ~~The implant of claim 11~~ wherein the first articular bearing component, the second articular bearing component, and the intercondylar component ~~first and second portions~~ are provided in sets of ~~modular first and second portions~~ that can be selectively joined together intraoperatively.
13. (currently amended) The tibial knee implant of claim 1 ~~The implant of claim 11~~ wherein the first articular bearing component, the second articular bearing component, and the intercondylar component ~~first and second portions~~ are permanently joined together at the time of manufacture.
- 14.-17. (canceled)
18. (currently amended) The tibial knee implant of claim 1 ~~The implant of claim 11~~ wherein the intercondylar component comprises ~~second portion comprises an intercondylar eminence and a unitary tray extending from the intercondylar eminence, the tray including a support surface for receiving the~~ first and second articular bearing components ~~first portion~~.
19. (currently amended) A tibial implant for a knee joint, the tibial knee implant being engageable with a femoral knee implant, the tibial knee implant comprising:
first and second bearing portions, each of the first and second bearing portions including
an articular surface; and
an intercondylar portion interposed between the first and second bearing portions, the intercondylar portion including an upwardly projecting intercondylar post engageable with the femoral knee implant to constrain the amount of relative motion permitted between the femoral and tibial knee implants, the intercondylar portion defining a dovetail engagement feature extending along each of a first side

and a second side from a front portion to a back portion, the first bearing portion defining a complementary dovetail engagement feature, the second bearing portion defining a complementary dovetail engagement feature, and the first and second bearing portions engaging the intercondylar portion in front-to-back sliding dovetail engagement to join the portions ~~forming three separate subcomponents mechanically joined~~ together to form a single component.

20. (original) The implant of claim 19 wherein the first and second bearing portions each have a first predetermined toughness value and the intercondylar portion has a second predetermined toughness value greater than the first predetermined toughness value of the bearing portions.
21. (canceled)
22. (new) The tibial knee implant of claim 1 wherein the first articular bearing component, the second articular bearing component, and the intercondylar component are joined together with the intercondylar component being interposed between the first and second articular bearing components, the pin extending transversely into each of the components.